

### **In the Claims**

Please delete Claims 3-5, 7, 10-14, and amend Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9 and 15 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for exposing a metered amount of liquid specimen to ~~at least~~  
~~one~~ immunochromatographic test strips, which comprises:

a base pan;

a fluid specimen collecting vessel held above said pan;

said vessel including a vertical wall and a bottom piece having an aperture;

a distribution valve mounted between said vessel and pan, said valve having a first cavity and  
being shaped and dimensioned to, in a first position, admit a metered sampling of fluid from said  
vessel through said aperture into said first cavity, and, in a second position, dump said sampling into  
said pan; ~~and~~

~~at least one~~ a pair of test stations each shaped and dimensioned to hold a chromatographic  
test device above a portion of said pan and in contact with said sampling;

wherein said pan comprises a liquid-receiving section under said valve, said section being  
divided into symmetrical portions each having one of first and second passageways,

said portions being shaped and positioned to accept isovolumetric amounts of said sampling  
fluid through said aperture when said valve is placed in said second position.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said pan, vessel and station define an  
enclosed chamber for holding said sampling;

said ~~device~~ valve further comprises a ~~receptacle above said pan~~ second cavity for holding a

4 ~~reagent desiccant compound~~, said ~~receptacle~~ second cavity having an opening, ~~and~~  
5 ~~—said valve comprises means~~ positioned for exposing said ~~chamber~~ pan to said ~~opening~~  
6 compound when said valve is placed in said first position.

1 3. (Canceled)

1 4. (Canceled)

1 5. (Canceled)

1 6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1 which further comprises a control station  
2 shaped and positioned to hold a chromatographic device above a portion of said pan and in contact  
3 with said sampling, said control station having two symmetrical channels, a first one of said channels  
4 leading to said first one passageway and a second one of said channels leading to said second  
5 passageway.

1 7. (Canceled)

1 8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein said valve comprises:  
2 a cylindrical body having an axis oriented horizontally under a median portion of said vessel;  
3 said cylindrical body having ~~a lateral~~ said first cavity shaped and positioned to admit said  
4 sampling through said aperture when said valve is in said first position;

5 means for rotating said cylindrical body about said axis to expose said first cavity to said  
6 ~~chamber~~ pan through said aperture when the valve is in said second position.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said ~~cylindrical body has a lateral~~  
2 second cavity is axially distant and diametrically opposite said first cavity.

1 10. (Canceled)

1 11. (Canceled)

1 12. (Canceled)

1 13. (Canceled)

1 14. (Canceled)

1 15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim [[2]] 1 which further comprises means for  
2 maintaining said sampling into said chamber under isobaric condition.